

somehow there's got to be a public funding element to it. Thank you.

NOTE: The exchange began at 10:15 a.m. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks and an Exchange With Reporters During a Luncheon With Business Leaders

June 16, 1993

Economic Program

The President. I'd just like to make one comment to reinforce the importance of passing this economic plan. We've got interest rates now down to a 20-year low and home mortgage rates. And this new headline, "Inflation Slows, Rates Holding," that's the direction we want. We want a steady recovery. And we have got to pass this economic plan and do it in the near future to ensure that that goes on.

Let me just mention one statistic. In the first 4 months of this administration, we had 130,000 new construction jobs in this country because of low interest rates. That is the largest increase in 9 years in a 4-month period. We can bring this economy back if we pass the plan, get the deficit down, keep the interest rates down, and keep the investment flowing to create jobs in the country. And I think it is terribly important. And I just wanted to emphasize that, to impress upon the country the importance of what the United States Senate is grappling with now. They simply have to pass this plan and go forward.

Q. Do you think that there will be a deal? And will it have a significant enough—

The President. I'm encouraged.

Q. —energy tax to make it worthwhile?

The President. Well, it depends on what the—let's look at the final plan. You know, the Senate is going to change the energy tax, but if they have enough deficit reduction and they go to the conference committee, I think that they will come out ultimately with a bill that I'll feel good about.

Supreme Court Nominee

Q. Mr. President, on another subject, were you influenced by the letter writing campaign on behalf of Judge Ginsburg? Did that help persuade you to take another look at her?

The President. No.

Q. Did you read any of the letters?

The President. I read some of the letters that came in on behalf of many candidates. But I was unaware of any big letter writing campaign. I saw seven or eight letters for her.

Q. —influence your decision at all?

The President. No, only that a lot of people thought a lot of her. There were also good letters for, I would say, 10 candidates that I read. I read a lot of letters that came in—

Q. The Marines that are now heading—

Campaign Finance Reform

Q. —campaign financing—the vote on the Hill?

The President. Excuse me?

Q. On the campaign financing, have you heard any more about a possible compromise?

The President. Just what you have, that they're working on it and that they may adopt one which we would find acceptable. But I want to see what they do—

Q. —been in communication with—

The President. A little bit. We know they're trying to work it out. And I'm encouraged. What I said in response, I think, to Andrea's [Andrea Mitchell, NBC News] question this morning, is that I think those five Republican Senators who voted for campaign finance reform last year must surely want to do it again. They know that special interests, financing, and excessive spending have really undermined the public's faith in the political process. So I think we've got a chance to get one.

Q. Mr. President, 2,200 Marines en route to the Somali coast. Can you shed any light on that?

Q. Thank you.

Q. Enjoy your lunch.

The President. Lunchtime.

Q. We don't get any.

The President. You know, I don't believe that. [Laughter]

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:40 p.m. in the Old Family Dining Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Letter to Representative William H. Natcher on the Superconducting Super Collider

June 16, 1993

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As your Committee considers the Energy and Water Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1994, I want you to know of my continuing support for the Superconducting Super Collider (SSC).

The most important benefits of the increased understanding gained from the SSC may not be known for a generation. We can, however, be certain that important benefits will result simply from making the effort. The SSC project will stimulate technologies in many areas critical for the health of the U.S. economy. The superconductor technologies developed for the project's magnets will stimulate production of a material that will be critical for ensuring the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturers, for improving medical care, and a variety of other purposes. The SSC will also produce critical employment and educational opportunities for thousands of young engineers and scientists around the country.

Abandoning the SSC at this point would signal that the United States is compromising its position of leadership in basic science—a position unquestioned for generations. These are tough economic times, yet our Administration supports this project as a part of its broad investment package in science and technology. Our support requires making sure that the project is well managed and that the Congress is informed of the full costs and anticipated benefits of the program. The SSC previously had an unstable funding profile. The stretched-out funding proposed by our Administration of \$640 million in FY 94 will allow better control of project costs. The full cost and scheduling implications of this stretch-out will be complete in the early fall, and will be examined carefully by the Administration at that time.

I ask you to support this important and challenging effort.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

NOTE: This letter was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary but was not issued as a White House press release.

Statement on National Service Legislation

June 16, 1993

I've always said that national service would be America at its best. In reporting out the national service legislation, today two key committees were Congress at its best as well.

National service is not about political partisanship. It is about America and the values that all of us share. National service will do so much that must be done: meeting our country's needs, paying for our children's education, and bringing all of us together in the common work of citizenship.

Democrats and Republicans joined together today in a spirit of service to support this initiative. Senator Ted Kennedy and Representative Bill Ford continued to provide exemplary leadership in moving this legislation forward on a bipartisan basis.

We've known for a long time that national service will bring Americans together. It's good to see that it brings Congress together as well.

Statement on Campaign Finance Reform Legislation

June 16, 1993

I congratulate the Senators from both parties who voted to break the filibuster of campaign finance reform. Today the Senate showed it has heard the American people's demand for change. I have long believed that we will not give the middle class the economic growth and health care reform it needs unless we also reform our political sys-